

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant responds hereto to the Official Action of August 7, 2007.

Claims 1-16 are in the application.

The rejection of claim 7-9 in said Office Action under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, has been obviated by the inclusion of proper antecedent basis for "each end" and "the ends" in claims 7 and 9 respectively. The Examiner is requested to review and withdraw such rejection and to allow such claims as has been otherwise indicated.

The Examiner noted that claims 10, 11, 12, 13 and 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and intermediate claims.

Accordingly, claims 10, 12 and 16 have been made independent as specified and are in condition for allowance. Claims 11 and 13, dependent on claims 10 and 12 respectively, are in condition for allowance as well and such favorable action is respectfully requested.

Claims 1,4,5,6,14 and 15 were rejected as being anticipated under 35 USC 102(b) by the Rohrbaugh reference. Claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rohrbaugh.

In response thereto, claim 1 has been amended to specify that:

"...the cleaning element having an externally exposed surface to be applied against a wire rope to be cleaned; and

a tensioning mechanism operatively arranged to slide the cleaning element through the channel to maintain the externally exposed surface against the wire rope...".

The Rohrbaugh reference has cleaning elements 14 with cleaning surfaces or hard edges 32 being inwardly directed toward centrally contained wire ropes. These surfaces are not externally exposed in line with the function of the Rohrbaugh device as a hard scraping device requiring buttressing of numerous ropes together and scraping forces being inwardly directed towards each other for maximum efficacy. In contrast, the present device effects a wiping and not a scraping as taught by Rohrbaugh. The wire ropes as shown in the present Figures actually wear away the wiping material and form channels in the cleaning element during use. There is thus no anticipation of the presently claimed device and modification of the reference structure to

provide the presently claimed device would obviate the utility of the Rohrbaugh invention and would not be effected by one skilled in the art. The Examiner is accordingly requested to review and withdraw the rejection of claim 1 and the claims dependent thereon as being anticipated by the cited reference.

It is also further specifically noted that with respect to the rejection of claim 2 as being unpatentable over Rohrbaugh, the Examiner stated that the reference discloses the use of plastics as a cleaning element and the Examiner found it obvious for one skilled in the art to use a different material. In response thereto, and with reference to the previous discussion, the plastic claimed is extruded polystyrene which is more commonly known by the trademark Styrofoam®. This is a well known soft material (commonly used as packing material) which is totally unsuitable for the scraping operation needed by Rohrbaugh. It is however, utilizable with the present cleaning by wiping of the present invention. It is further noted that at paragraph 32 of the present specification, alternative materials for the polystyrene block are "...any suitable material for wiping the rope clean, for example, felt or canvas..." indicating utilization of soft and not hard scraping materials. Claim 2 is thus separately patentable. The Examiner is accordingly requested to review and withdraw the rejection of the claims as neither being anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited reference.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, allow all the claims and pass this case to issue .

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING
SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH
THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND
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Respectfully submitted,



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